Policy Regarding Import of Edible Oils

*551. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is at present Government's policy in regard to import of edible oils;

(b) whether any check was exercised over quality of edible oils imported during 1993-94, 1994-95 and till date;

(c) whether certain anomalies have come to the notice of Government in regard to present import policy; and

(d) if so, whether Government have any proposal to modify this policy suitably?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The import of all edible oils except Coconut Oil, Palm Kernel Oil, RBD Palm Oil and RBD Palm Stearin is allowed under Open General Licence (OGL) with effect from 1.3.1995 at 30 per cent duty. The State Trading Corporation (STC) is importing RBD Palmolein at concessional duty of 20 per cent for the Public Distribution System (PDS). The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is also permitted to import selected edible oils for open market sale at concessional duty of 20 per cent.

(b) As per provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, all imported consignments of foods articles including edible oils are checked for ensuring their quailty before the same are released for human consumption. In respect of imports by STC, the quality of oil is tested by independent surveyors before loading in vessels at the port of origin as well as the discharge port in India by Surveyors and Port Health Officer/Custom Authorities before it is released to States/UTs. for supply under PDS.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

कोयला क्षेत्र के विकास की व्यापक योजना

*552. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान कोयला क्षेत्र के विकास की कोई व्यापक योजना है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर कितनी राशि खर्च की जाएगी;

(ग) क्या इस उद्देश्य के लिए कोई विदेशी सहायता भी ली जा रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत कुमार पांजा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) कोयला तथा लिग्नाइट क्षेत्र के लिए आठवीं योजना का अनुमोदित परिव्यय 11,357 करोड़ रु० की राशि का है।

(ग) जी, हां।

(घ) इस क्षेत्र को यूनाइटेड किंगडम, फ्रांस, जर्मनी, कनाडा, आस्ट्रेलिया, चीन और विश्व बैंक सहायता प्रदान कर रहे हैं।

Arbitration Cases Decided by Indian Council of Arbitration

*553. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of arbitration were finally decided by the Indian Council of Arbitration during the last three years;

(b) how much were the fees charged form the parties during this period;

(c) how much is the annual working expenditure of the Council; and

(d) the useful purpose served by the Council?